

Claims

1. (Previously presented) A method of managing workflow in a commercial printing environment including a designer location and a print service provider location, said method comprising:

creating at the designer location a digital file that represents an image to be printed;

receiving at the designer location from the print service provider location real time configuration information regarding a print production device at the print service provider location;

creating at the designer location relative to the received configuration information a high performance file by encapsulating a plurality of files associated with a print job created at the designer location, the plurality of files including the digital file that represents the image to be printed and a file that includes print job processing instructions;

submitting the high performance file from the designer location to the print service provider location via an electronic network; and

performing at the print service provider location at least one of automated printing, finishing, packaging, and shipping relative to the instructions contained in the high performance file.

2. (Previously presented) A method of managing workflow according to claim 1, further comprising verifying at the print service provider location that the digital file will be produced as indicated by the high performance file and, if not, correcting the high performance file to ensure production substantially as designed.

3. (Previously presented) A method of managing workflow according to claim 1, wherein the digital file includes the substance of the print job and the corresponding images and fonts.

4. (Previously presented) A method of managing workflow according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of files includes a job ticket that contains instructions regarding each stage of processing for the print job.

5. (Previously presented) A method of managing workflow according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of files includes a remote proof file that reflects the format that the final output of the print job should comprise.

6. (Previously presented) A method of managing workflow according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of files includes an imposition information file that contains instructions regarding arrangement and spacing of the image to be printed on print media to be used in completing the print job.

7. (Previously presented) A method of managing workflow according to claim 6, wherein the plurality of files includes an imposition proof in electronic form that illustrates the arrangement and spacing.

8. (Previously presented) A method of managing workflow according to claim 1, further comprising performing at the designer location automated remote finishing setup to remotely select the desired finishing options and to prepare finishing instructions to effect the same, and wherein the plurality of files includes the finishing instructions.

9. (Previously presented) A method of managing workflow according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of files includes an electronic image of a finishing mock-up of the image to be printed.

10. (Previously presented) A method of managing workflow according to claim 1, further comprising performing at the designer location automated remote packaging setup to remotely select the desired packaging options and to prepare packaging instructions to effect the same, and wherein the plurality of files includes the packaging instructions.

11. (Previously presented) A method of managing workflow according to claim 1, further comprising performing at the designer location automated remote shipping setup to remotely select the desired shipping options and to prepare shipping instructions to effect the same, and wherein the plurality of files includes the shipping instructions.

12-23. (Canceled)

24. (Previously presented) A system for managing workflow in a commercial printing environment, said system comprising:

a designer location configured to:

create a digital file that represents an image to be printed,
receive from the print service provider location real time configuration information regarding a print production device at the print service provider location,

create relative to the received configuration information a high performance file that encapsulates a plurality of files associated with a print job created at the designer location, the plurality of files including the digital file that represents the image to be printed and a file that includes print job processing instructions, and

submit the high performance file to the print service provider location via an electronic network; and

a print service provider location configured to perform at least one of automated printing, finishing, packaging, and shipping relative to the instructions contained in the high performance file.

25. (Previously presented) A system for managing workflow according to claim 24, wherein the print service provider location is further configured to verify that the digital file will be produced as indicated by the high performance file and, if not, correct the high performance file to ensure production substantially as designed.

26. (Previously presented) A system for managing workflow according to claim 24, wherein the digital file includes the substance of the print job and the corresponding images and fonts.

27. (Previously presented) A system for managing workflow according to claim 24, wherein the plurality of files includes a job ticket that contains instructions regarding each stage of processing for the print job.

28. (Previously presented) A system for managing workflow according to claim 24, wherein the plurality of files includes a remote proof file that reflects the format that the final output of the print job should comprise.

29. (Previously presented) A system for managing workflow according to claim 24, wherein the plurality of files includes an imposition information file that contains instructions regarding arrangement and spacing of the image to be printed on print media to be used in completing the print job.

30. (Previously presented) A system for managing workflow according to claim 29, wherein the plurality of files includes an imposition proof in electronic form that illustrates the arrangement and spacing.

31. (Previously presented) A system for managing workflow according to claim 24, wherein the designer location is further configured to perform automated remote finishing setup to remotely select the desired finishing options and to prepare finishing instructions to effect the same, and wherein the plurality of files includes the finishing instructions.

32. (Previously presented) A system for managing workflow according to claim 24, wherein the plurality of files includes an electronic image of a finishing mock-up of the image to be printed.

33. (Previously presented) A system for managing workflow according to claim 24, wherein the designer location is further configured to perform automated remote packaging setup to remotely select the desired packaging options and to prepare packaging instructions to effect the same, and wherein the plurality of files includes the packaging instructions.

34. (Previously presented) A system for managing workflow according to claim 24, wherein the designer location is further configured to perform automated remote shipping setup to remotely select the desired shipping options and to prepare shipping instructions to effect the same, and wherein the plurality of files includes the shipping instructions.